

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of assessing information technology needs in a business, comprising:

5 gathering information associated with the operation of the business in categories pertaining to the information technology initiative desired to be implemented;

applying strategic value ratings to each criteria in the categories;

10 categorizing initiatives so that like initiatives are assessed against each other;

determining which initiatives are to be funded in accordance with the applied strategic value ratings.

15 2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

applying an approval filter to each criteria of the categories.

3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising:

20 applying the strategic value rating in response to an affirmative approval filter.

4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

25 calculating a strategic value assessment for each initiative from the strategic value ratings.

5. The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

establishing funding for an initiative with the highest strategic value assessment.

6. The method of Claim 4, further comprising:  
comparing the strategic value assessment of a first  
initiative to strategic value assessment of a second  
initiative;

5       prioritizing the first initiative with respect to  
the second initiative in response to the strategic value  
assessment comparison.

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
10       applying a weight factor to each category pertaining  
to the initiative.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the categories  
include strategic positioning, financial impact,  
15       intellectual assets, and business drivers associated with  
the business.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein technical impact  
and risk impact overlays affect the application of the  
20       strategic value ratings.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the initiatives  
are categorized according to whether an initiative  
transforms the business, grows the business, provides a  
25       technological advantage, and involves a technology  
refresh.

11. A computer readable medium including code for assessing information technology needs in a business, the code operable to:

5 receive information associated with the operation of the business in categories pertaining to the information technology initiative desired to be implemented;

apply strategic value ratings to each criteria in the categories;

10 categorize initiatives so that like initiatives are assessed against each other;

determine which initiatives are to be funded in accordance with the applied strategic value ratings.

12. The computer readable medium of Claim 11 wherein the code is further operable to:

apply an approval filter to each criteria of the categories.

13. The computer readable medium of Claim 11, wherein the code is further operable to:

20 apply a weight factor to each category pertaining to the initiative.

14. The computer readable medium of Claim 11, wherein the code is further operable to:

25 calculate a strategic value assessment for each initiative from the strategic value ratings.

15. The computer readable medium of Claim 14,  
wherein the code is further operable to:

compare the strategic value assessment of a first  
initiative to strategic value assessment of a second  
5 initiative;

prioritize the first initiative with respect to the  
second initiative in response to the strategic value  
assessment comparison.

10 16. A system for assessing information technology  
needs in a business, comprising:

means for receiving information associated with the  
operation of the business in categories pertaining to the  
information technology initiative desired to be  
15 implemented;

means for applying strategic value ratings to each  
criteria in the categories;

means for categorizing initiatives so that like  
initiatives are assessed against each other;

20 means for determining which initiatives are to be  
funded in accordance with the applied strategic value  
ratings.

17. The system of Claim 16, further comprising:

25 means for applying an approval filter to each  
criteria of the categories.

18. The system of Claim 16, further comprising:

30 means for applying a weight factor to each category  
pertaining to the initiative.

19. The system of Claim 16, further comprising:  
means for calculating a strategic value assessment  
for each initiative from the strategic value ratings.

5           20. The system of Claim 19, further comprising:  
          means for comparing the strategic value assessment  
of a first initiative to strategic value assessment of a  
second initiative;  
          means for prioritizing the first initiative with  
10       respect to the second initiative in response to the  
strategic value assessment comparison.